

of the weight of the ball with absorbed water to the weight of the dry ball, such ratio being [in the range] a maximum of [1.01:1 to 1.2:1] 1.25:1. 1.13:1

2. (amended) The game ball as claimed in claim 1, wherein said ratio is [in the range] a maximum of [1.01:1 to] 1.15:1.

3. (amended) The game ball as claimed in claim 1, wherein when said ball is subjected to six 45 minute cycles of the rain test and said ball is permitted to dry at approximately 70°F for 24 hours between cycles, the average per cycle ratio at the conclusion of said six rain test cycles is [in the range of 1.01:1 to 1.2:1] a maximum of 1.15:1.

4. (amended) The game ball as claimed in claim (3) wherein [said ball has a] the ratio [in the range of 1.01:1 to 1.15:1] is a maximum of 1.10:1.

5. (amended) The ball as claimed in claim 1, wherein the lining [of said ball] is coated with at least one [or more] water resistant polymeric [materials] material selected from the group consisting of vinyl, epoxy, polyester and urethane materials.

6. (amended) The ball as claimed in claim 1, wherein the lining [of said ball] comprises a fiber reinforced sheet-like material with water resistant properties.

7. (amended) The ball as claimed in claim 6, wherein said lining is formed from at least one [or more plies] ply of water resistant materials selected from the group consisting of vinyl, epoxy, polyester, and urethane materials.

8. (twice amended) [An American-style football] A game ball with moisture resistance properties, said [football] game ball comprising an inflatable bladder, [a lining having water resistance properties disposed over and surrounding said bladder, and]

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a leather cover [having water resistance properties] disposed over and surrounding said [leather cover] bladder, [said leather cover having water resistance properties imparted during a tanning process of said leather] the leather of said cover having water resistance properties distributed throughout during a tanning process, and a lining disposed between said bladder and said cover, wherein when said [football] ball is subjected to [a cycle] six 45 minute cycles of [the] a rain test [for a period of up to one hundred twenty minutes] said ball will absorb [120 g or less water] an average per cycle water gain of a maximum of 90 g of water at the conclusion of said sixth rain test cycle.

9. (amended) [An American-style football] A game ball as claimed in claim 8, wherein [when said football is subjected to six-one hundred twenty minute cycles of the rain test and said ball is permitted to dry between cycles,] said [football] ball will absorb [120 g or less] an average per cycle water gain of a maximum of 65 g of water at the conclusion of [each cycle of] said sixth rain test cycle.

10. (amended) [An American-style football] A game ball as claimed in claim [9] 8, wherein [when said football is subjected to up to six one hundred twenty minute cycles of the rain test and said ball is permitted to dry between cycles,] said [football] ball will absorb [75 g or less] a maximum per cycle water gain of 115 g of water at the conclusion of [each cycle of] said sixth rain test cycle.

Please add the following new claims.

Sub C 5
B 2
--11. A water resistant game ball comprising a cover of natural leather having a treatment to impart water resistant properties throughout the extent of the leather, said treatment consisting essentially of tanning of said leather with chemicals prior to application of said cover to said game ball.

12. The game ball of claim 11 wherein when said ball is subjected to three 90 minute cycles of a rain test, said ball absorbs maximum amount of water at the conclusion of said third rain test cycle as expressed as a ratio of the weight of the ball with absorbed water to the weight of the dry ball, such ratio being a maximum of

B2
1.25:1. 1.13 : 1

X 13. The game ball of claim 11 wherein when said ball is subjected to three 90 minute cycles of a rain test, said ball absorbs maximum amount of water at the conclusion of said third rain test cycle as expressed as a ratio of the weight of the ball with absorbed water to the weight of the dry ball, such ratio being a maximum of 1.25:1 and when said ball is subjected to two 45 minute cycles of a rain test, said ball absorbs a maximum amount of water at the conclusion of each cycle as expressed as a ratio of the weight of the ball with absorbed water to the weight of the dry ball, said ratio at the conclusion of said second cycle being less than said ratio at the conclusion of said first cycle. NO SUPPORT

14. The game ball of claim 11 wherein when said ball is subjected to three 90 minute cycles of a rain test, said ball absorbs maximum amount of water at the conclusion of said third rain test cycle as expressed as a ratio of the weight of the ball with absorbed water to the weight of the dry ball, such ratio being a maximum of 1.15:1. 1.13 : 1

15. The game ball of claim 11 wherein when said ball is selected from the group consisting of a football, an American-style football, a rugby ball, a soccer ball, a volleyball, a basketball, a softball, and a baseball.

16. The game ball of claim 11 wherein when said ball is subjected to two 45 minute cycles of a rain test, said ball absorbs maximum amount of water at the conclusion of each said rain test cycle as expressed as a ratio of the weight of the ball with absorbed

water to the weight of the dry ball, said ratio at the conclusion of said first rain test cycle being a maximum of 1.27:1 and said ratio at the conclusion of said second rain test cycle being no greater than said ratio at the conclusion of said first rain test cycle.

32 Sub EH 17. The game ball of claim 11 wherein when said ball is subjected to four 45 minute cycles of a rain test, said ball absorbs maximum amount of water at the conclusion of each said rain test cycle as expressed as a ratio of the weight of the ball with absorbed water to the weight of the dry ball, said ratio at the conclusion of said first rain test cycle being a maximum of 1.27:1 and said ratio at the conclusion of each of said second, third and fourth rain test cycles being no greater than said ratio at the conclusion of said first rain test cycle.

18. The game ball of claim 11 wherein when said ball is subjected to four 45 minute cycles of a rain test, said ball absorbs maximum of 110 g of water at the conclusion of any said rain test cycle and said ball absorbs an average per cycle water gain of a maximum of 90 g of water at the conclusion of the fourth cycle of said rain test.

38.6 19. A method of making a game ball having water resistant properties comprising:
providing a natural leather sheet;

treating said leather sheet to impart water resistant properties substantially throughout the fibers of the leather sheet, said treatment consisting essentially of a tanning of said leather with chemicals prior to assembling said game ball from said leather;

assembling said game ball from said leather of said leather sheet, wherein the water resistant properties of said game ball result from said treatment of said leather sheet prior to assembling said game ball from said leather.

20. The method of claim 19 comprising.